United Nations E/CN.17/2004/16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 February 2004

Original: English

Commission on Sustainable Development
Twelfth session
14-30 April 2004
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2004-2005

Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Partnerships for sustainable development are voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives that are specifically linked to the implementation of commitments outlined in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21 and/or the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. The present report provides a general summary of information on the 266 partnerships for sustainable development registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as a more detailed summary of partnerships focusing on water, sanitation and human settlements.

The report points out that while these initiatives vary considerably in terms of size, scope and duration, there are certain common themes that resonate through all of them. Partnerships for sustainable development are collaborative initiatives focused on finding solutions to sustainable development challenges. By pooling their knowledge, skills and resources, registered partnerships are working to develop comprehensive knowledge management systems to contribute to an environment of informed decision-making.

Most partnerships employ a bottom-up approach, using pilot projects to test their strategies, before replicating their models at national, subregional and regional levels. The outputs from partnerships vary greatly, ranging from direct technology transfer of specific solutions to the creation of networks that gather information on technical solutions. Many initiatives are using information and communication technology such as web-servers and web-accessible information databases at all scales, ranging from local to global.

This report serves as a basis for the Commission on Sustainable Development's discussion, during its review session, on the contribution of partnerships to the implementation of the intergovernmentally agreed sustainable development goals and objectives.

* E/CN.17/2004/1.

04-23763 (E) 090304

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–9	3
II.	Synthesis of general information on partnerships	10–36	4
	A. Facts and figures	13–32	4
	1. Overall numbers	14	4
	2. Sectoral coverage	15–17	5
	3. Geographic coverage	18–19	6
	4. Time frame	20–24	7
	5. Partners involved	25–27	8
	6. Resources	28–32	9
	B. Trends	33–36	10
	1. Implementation mechanisms	33	10
	2. Progress since initiation	34–36	11
III.	Water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships	37–57	11
	A. Facts and figures	39–43	11
	B. Implementation goals and targets	44–51	12
	C. Implementation mechanisms	52–56	13
	D. Progress since initiation	57	14
IV.	Partnership-related activities by the Commission secretariat	58–63	14
	A. Information management	58–60	14
	B. Initiatives aimed at strengthening partnerships	61–62	15
	C. Communications and outreach	63	15
V.	Conclusions	64–68	15
Annex			
	Involvement of registered partnerships according to theme		17

I. Introduction

1. Voluntary, multi-stakeholder partnerships have proved to be an important complementary outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. More than 200 partnerships were launched during the Summit process and, as of 31 January 2004, a total of 266 partnership initiatives had been registered with the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat. These partnerships have a special character in that they are specifically linked to implementation of globally agreed commitments in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21 and/or the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. However, as stressed at the Summit, these partnerships are not a substitute for government responsibilities and commitments, and are intended to strengthen implementation by involving all those who can make a contribution to sustainable development.

2. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation recognized the potential contribution of partnerships to agreed commitments, and called upon international institutions to encourage partnership initiatives for implementation by all relevant actors to support the outcomes of the World Summit. The Commission on Sustainable Development was designated by the Summit as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development.

3. At its eleventh session, in 2003, the Commission stressed that partnerships in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with a set of agreed criteria and guidelines,[1] taking note of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for the Summit, including the Bali Guiding Principles[2] and General Assembly resolution 56/76.

4. The Commission agreed that such partnerships should be publicly announced, with the intention of sharing the specific contribution that they make to the implementation of the intergovernmentally agreed commitments on sustainable development, and that those involved should exchange information with Governments and other relevant stakeholders.

5. As part of the information-sharing process, the Commission secretariat was requested by the Commission to make information on partnerships available through a database accessible to all interested parties, including through the Division for Sustainable Development web site[3] and other means.

6. While the registration of partnership initiatives with the Commission secretariat is a continuous, voluntary process, the Commission agreed at its eleventh session that registered partnerships should submit regular reports, preferably on a biennial basis.

7. At the same session, the Commission called for activities that strengthen existing partnerships and facilitate new ones, including partnership fairs, and requested the Commission secretariat to produce a summary report, in accordance with its programme and organization of work, noting the particular relevance of such reports in review years.

8. In December 2003, in its resolution 58/129, the General Assembly recalled the Commission's designation as the focal point for partnerships that promote sustainable development and reaffirmed the criteria and guidelines adopted at the eleventh session of the Commission and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2003.

9. The Commission, during its biennial review sessions, will discuss the contribution of partnerships to the implementation of the intergovernmentally agreed sustainable development goals and objectives. The present report containing synthesized information on partnerships as requested by the Commission at its eleventh session, is submitted for consideration by the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

II. Synthesis of general information on partnerships

10. The following summary is based on information submitted by partnerships to the Commission secretariat through their initial registration forms and subsequent updates. As a follow-up to the Summit, in January 2003 a request was sent to lead partners of all registered partnerships asking them to update the secretariat on the status on their initiatives. The secretariat received responses from half of all registered partnerships.

11. The registration form for partnerships was revised in August 2003, to reflect the criteria and guidelines agreed at the eleventh session of the Commission. Changes to the form included the addition of new questions on areas such as geographic and sectoral coverage.

12. The newly created partnerships database was modelled on the revised registration form. In November 2003, lead partners of all registered partnerships were asked to review and update the database entries relating to their initiatives. One-third of all partnerships had responded to this request as of 31 January 2004. Of the 266 partnerships currently registered with the Commission secretariat, a total of 172 partnerships have responded to either or both of these requests for updates in 2003.

A. Facts and figures

13. The decision on partnerships, adopted by the Commission at its eleventh session,[1] the Bali Guiding Principles[2] and General Assembly resolution 56/76 all identified certain key aspects of organization and scope that were desirable for partnerships for sustainable development. These included broader issues, including the sectoral and geographical balance of partnerships and the multistakeholder nature of partners involved, coupled with more specific guidelines on the time frame of the partnerships, their relationship to the Summit and the need for partnerships to have a "predictable and sustained" resource base. The following sections explore some of these aspects and identify emerging themes and trends within the group of partnerships currently registered with the Commission secretariat.

1. Overall numbers

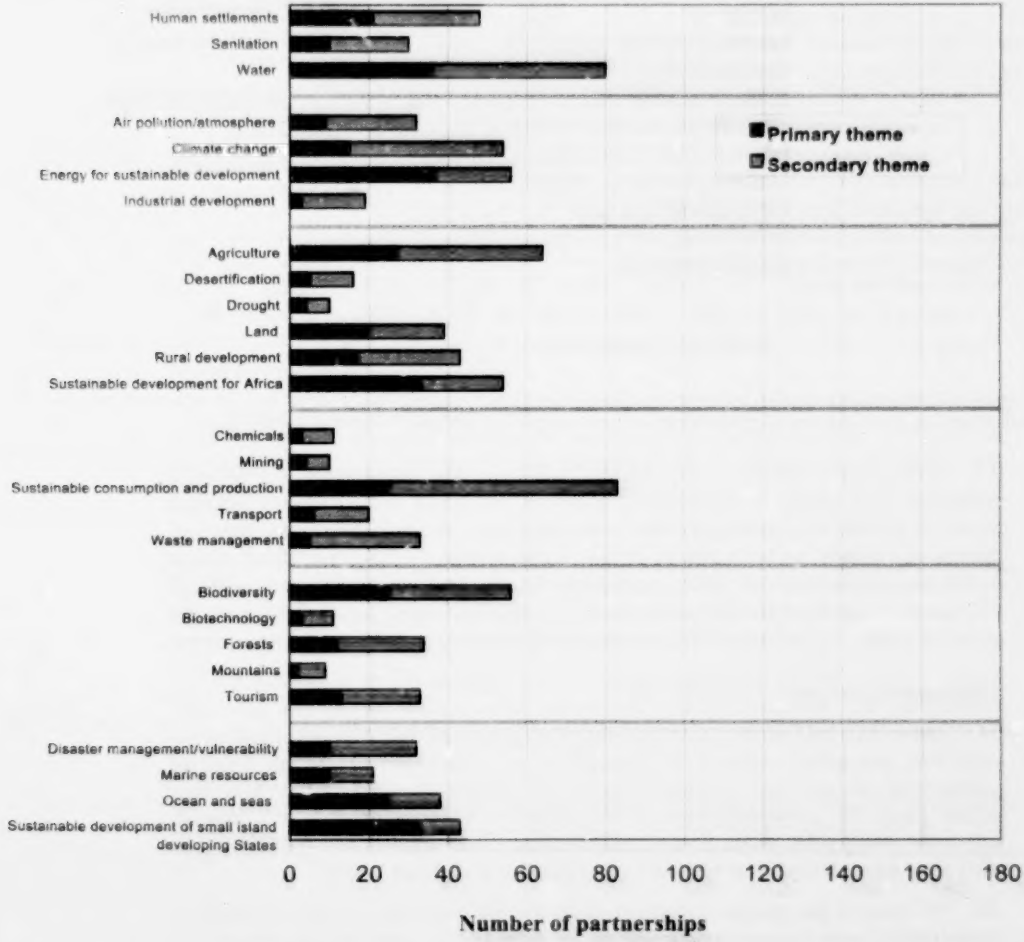
14. As stated above, a total of 266 partnerships had been registered with the Commission secretariat by 31 January 2004. A majority of the partnerships (209) were registered around the time of the Summit, while 57 partnerships have registered since then. In addition to these, 34 activities to initiate partnerships,[4] which have the potential to lead to formation of new partnership initiatives for sustainable development, are also currently registered with the secretariat.

2. Sectoral coverage

15. In general, individual partnership initiatives working towards sustainable development tend to cut across several themes. This can, in part, be attributed to the multidisciplinary nature of sustainable development as a whole. To provide a contextual reference for partnership initiatives and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the thematic areas from the Commission's multi-year programme of work were used to draw up a list of sustainable development issue areas. The following graph shows the distribution of the different thematic focal areas of partnerships, broken down by primary and secondary themes.

Thematic focus of partnerships[a]

(Clustered according to the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development)

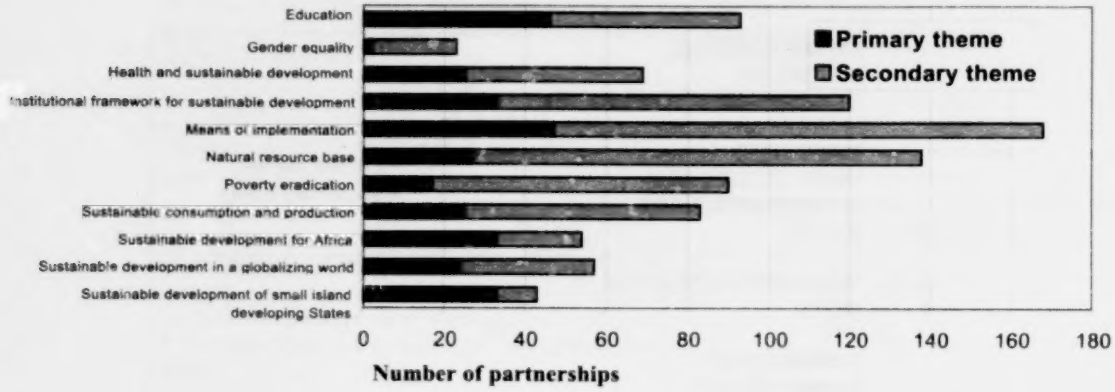


[a] Given that most partnerships have multiple primary and secondary themes, aggregating the total number of partnerships per theme would exceed the total number of partnerships currently registered with the Commission secretariat.

16. The distribution of registered partnerships by thematic focus shows that a wide spectrum of thematic areas is covered, but also shows that some areas have very few registered partnerships. These "underrepresented" thematic areas are: biotechnology, chemicals, desertification, drought, industrial development, gender equality, marine resources, mining and mountains. This gap in coverage is in the context of registered partnerships, and is not necessarily reflective of those partnership initiatives taking place outside the sphere of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Thematic focus of partnerships[a]

(Cross-cutting issues from the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development)



[a] Given that most partnerships have multiple primary and secondary themes, aggregating the total number of partnerships per theme would exceed the total number of partnerships currently registered with the Commission secretariat.

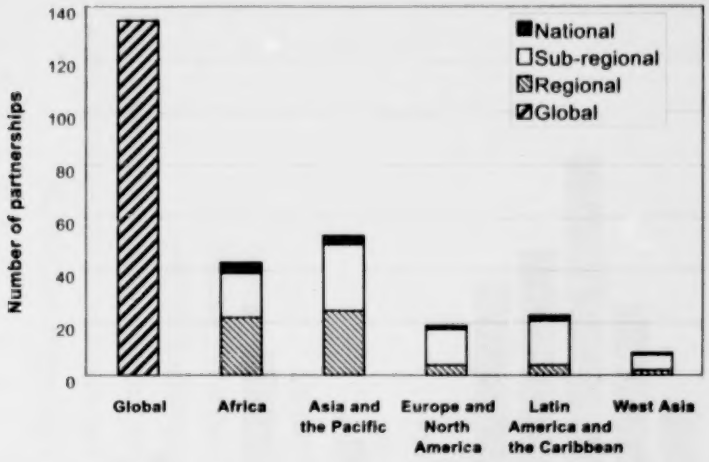
17. While most registered partnerships focus on the management of specific natural resource areas, a significant proportion (see graph above) have a common focus on broader cross-cutting issues. Most partnerships use capacity-building and technology transfer as key elements in their implementation. Efforts to effect change in the institutional framework for sustainable development are also a common thread in registered partnerships. One third of all registered partnerships are working in the areas of education, sustainable consumption and production and poverty eradication.

3. Geographic coverage

18. More than half of the registered partnerships are global in scope; most of the remainder are either regional or subregional. A very small percentage (4%) of partnerships are national in scope. Most of the globally-focused partnerships have action plans for implementation at all levels. A majority employ a bottom-up approach, using pilot projects at a local level to create models and test strategies, which are then replicable at national, subregional and regional levels.

19. In terms of geographic coverage within the regional, subregional and national partnerships, most registered partnerships are focussed on implementing sustainable development initiatives in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. The following graph shows the geographic distribution of registered partnerships

Geographic scope of partnerships



4. Time frame

20. According to the criteria and guidelines agreed upon at the eleventh session of the Commission, registered partnerships should be new (within the framework of the World Summit on Sustainable Development process) and should add concrete value to the implementation process of global agreements related to sustainable development.[5] A majority of the partnerships registered with the Commission secretariat were launched at or around the time of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2002.

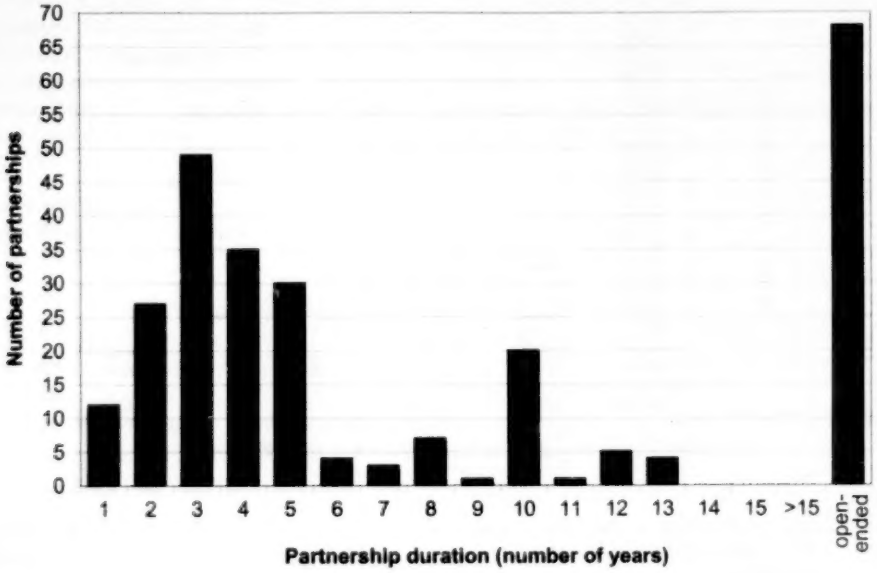
21. In contrast, less than one third of the partnerships initiated activities in 2003. Organizational constraints intrinsic to collaborative initiatives, such as delays in receiving funding, and lag time associated with confirming partners, are factors that affect the start date of a partnership's implementation.

22. Less than 5 per cent of registered partnerships were initiated prior to 2002. In the case of these ongoing partnerships, they had to demonstrate significant added-value in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in order to be registered. This could have been in the form of additional partners, replication of an initiative, extension of geographic scope or an increase in financial resources.

23. The duration of partnerships varies widely depending on the nature of goals, objectives and targets. Most have several phases of implementation, with an increase in scale as the initiative progresses. In some cases, this incremental approach is related to funding constraints.

24. One quarter of the registered partnerships are open-ended. For the remaining initiatives, the average duration is 4.8 years, and the most common duration is 3 years.

Duration of partnerships



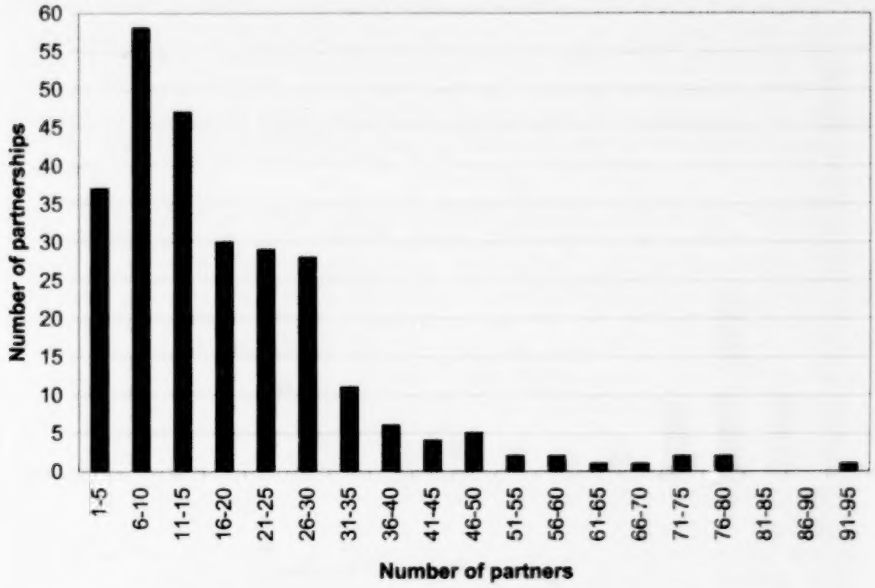
5. Partners involved

25. Registered partnerships, by definition, are voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives undertaken by any combination of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups[6] or other organizations. A significant majority of registered partnerships include the involvement of government (85%) and major groups (90%). Two thirds of partnerships have United Nations system and other intergovernmental organization involvement. It is generally understood that all partners are involved in the development of the partnership from its early stages in order to ensure that the approach taken is genuinely participatory.

26. In terms of lead partner organizations: 49 per cent of all registered partnerships have a major group organization as a lead partner; 40 per cent have Governments as lead partners; 28 per cent have United Nations system organizations as lead partners; and 25 per cent have other intergovernmental organizations as lead partners. Other organizations, such as academic institutions, account for less than 10 per cent of all lead partners. It should be noted that most partnerships have two lead partners.

27. The number of partner organizations per partnership tends to vary. In registered partnerships, the number of confirmed partners ranged from as few as 3 to as many as 93 different organizational partners. Since most partnerships welcome additional partners, it is expected that as these initiatives evolve, the number of organizations actively participating within them is likely to increase correspondingly.

Partners per partnership



6. Resources

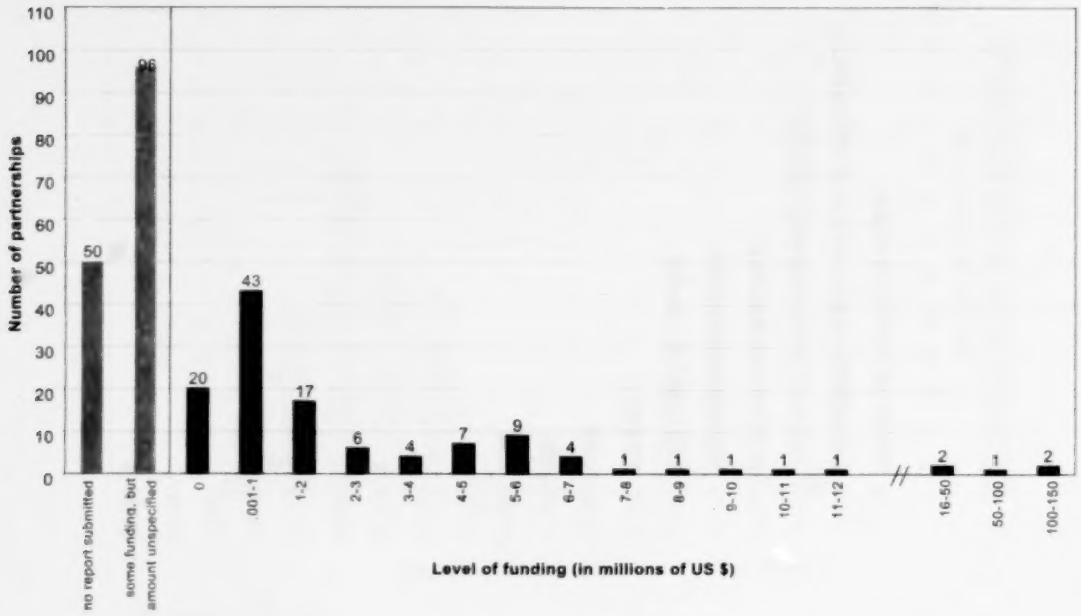
28. The resource base of a partnership, whether financial resources and/or non-financial contributions, is one of the key determinants affecting a partnership's ability to carry out its implementation goals. The Commission on Sustainable Development agreed that partnerships for sustainable development should be based on predictable and sustained resources, including new resources.

29. A majority (81%) of registered partnerships have provided information on funding. Based on the information reported, 36 per cent of registered partnerships have funding, although they have not specified the amount; 38 per cent have provided specific figures of the funding secured; and 8 per cent have yet to secure funding.

30. Of the registered partnerships that have secured funding, 72 per cent have funding from Governments, while 18 per cent are receiving funding from intergovernmental organizations (including United Nations system organizations). A small percentage (6%) have reported receiving grants from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), while an even smaller number are receiving funding from other sources such as private sector donors and foundations. The following graph indicates the distribution of funding levels as reported by partnerships.

31. A majority (70%) of the registered partnerships are currently seeking additional funding for their initiatives. Of these, 21 per cent of partnerships provided specific figures on the funding they are currently seeking. These additional amounts needed ranged from $100,000 to $82 million.

Reported funding levels



32. Non-financial contributions (such as in kind contributions or staff time) often enable a partnership to function while it is in the process of securing funding from outside sources. One fifth of registered partnerships have reported that they currently have non-financial resources. At present, insufficient information is available to draw any conclusions as to the degree to which partnerships depend on such in kind contributions to sustain their initiatives, but this information should be available in future reports.

B. Trends

1. Implementation mechanisms

33. Partnerships for sustainable development can help foster capacity at all levels, from local to regional, to address global economic, social and environmental concerns through the strengthening of international cooperation in areas of institutional and human capacity-building, research and information-sharing and technology transfer. At the eleventh session of the Commission, it was recommended that partnerships for sustainable development should have a capacity-building and technology transfer element built into their actions, and this has been the case with the registered partnerships. A significant number of registered partnerships (78%) have provided information on their efforts in education and building awareness. Almost as many (69%) have listed activities related to human resources and training. Over two fifths of all partnerships (43%) are engaged in some form of technology transfer, while a similar number (42%) are working in institutional strengthening endeavours.

2. Progress since initiation

34. Updates on progress made have been submitted by 172 of the 266 registered partnerships (65%). Partnership progress covers a wide spectrum, with some partnerships being well advanced in implementing their action plans, and even looking to expand further, while others are still awaiting confirmation of donor support. In general, the nature of progress reported can be broken down into three broad categories: organizational matters, coordination efforts and implementation activities.

35. Progress in organizational matters reported included: progress in fundraising; outreach to potential new partners and/or confirmation of existing partners; development of an internal governance mechanism; and development of an implementation strategy. Coordination efforts included activities such as meetings of partners, the establishment of a partnership web site and the use of partnership newsletters. Implementation activities included convening workshops, the production of documents and educational materials, the provision of training and capacity-building, the formation of expert networks, efforts to develop policies and the funding and/or implementation of projects.

36. At present, it appears that the majority of active partnerships are still involved in an organizational phase, including steps such as the definition of a partnership's coordination structure and implementation strategy, and have yet to begin the implementation phase of their initiatives. Of those partnerships that did report significant developments on the implementation level, many had initiated their partnership before the Johannesburg Summit in August 2002. This suggests that the organizational phase takes a significant amount of time and that an increasing number of partnerships will be reporting progress towards implementation goals in the coming reporting cycles.

III. Water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships

37. In keeping with the focus of the current review session of the Commission on the thematic cluster water, sanitation and human settlements, the following section delves into greater detail on those partnerships whose primary focus is this thematic cluster.

38. Of the 266 registered partnerships, 56 initiatives have a primary focus on water, sanitation and/or human settlements, with some listing more than one primary area. Water was listed as a primary focus by 36 partnerships, 21 listed human settlements and 10 listed sanitation.

A. Facts and figures

39. Given the degree of overlap among partnerships within this subset (noted above), the following general statistics are presented on an aggregated basis for all 56 water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships.

40. In terms of geographic coverage; 63 per cent of the water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships are global, 11 per cent are regional. 21 per cent are subregional and 5 per cent are national.

41. In terms of time frame; 12 per cent of the water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships were initiated prior to 2002, 45 per cent in 2002, 32 per cent in 2003, and 11 per cent are scheduled for initiation in 2004. In terms of duration, 20 per cent are open-ended, while the remainder varied from 2 to 14 years in length.

42. In terms of partner involvement; 93 per cent of the water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships have major group involvement, 82 per cent have government involvement, 66 per cent have United Nations system involvement, 52 per cent involve other intergovernmental organizations and 34 per cent include other organizations such as academic institutions. The size of the partnerships in terms of total number of partners ranged from 3 to 71, with the average size being 20 organizations. The breakdown of partners by lead partner was 50 per cent from major groups, 41 per cent from Governments, 30 per cent from other intergovernmental organizations, 20 per cent from organizations of the United Nations system and 5 per cent from other organizations.

43. In terms of resources, 79 per cent of the water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships have already secured funding. Of the remainder, 18 per cent have yet to secure funding and 3 per cent have not provided any information on resources. In total, 61 per cent of the water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships are seeking additional funding. About one third currently have non-financial resources, and 3 per cent have only non-financial resources. The majority of secured funding is from either government or intergovernmental organization sources; 70 per cent of partnerships have secured funding from Governments, 32 per cent from intergovernmental organizations.

B. Implementation goals and targets

44. In general, the water, sanitation, and human settlements partnerships cover a wide range of the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including, in particular, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, poverty eradication and health.

45. Many of the water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships are working towards applying integrated management strategies. By monitoring, evaluating and distributing information and data on sustainable natural-resource management, these initiatives are creating an enabling environment geared towards informed decision-making. Management tools being developed by the registered partnerships included compilations of best practices, case studies and development of sustainability indicators.

46. In the case of water and sanitation partnerships, integrated water resources management was identified as a focal area. Activities identified in this area ranged from programmes studying specific watershed areas and assessments of transboundary aquifers to regional efforts to develop management tools for freshwater use in small island developing States in the Caribbean.

47. Some of the water and sanitation partnerships also have a secondary focus on agriculture. For these partnerships, the key area identified was the connection between irrigation, food security and agricultural production. Target activities in this

area ranged from researching water management models for sustainable agricultural production to the development of affordable and low-cost irrigation technologies.

48. For human settlements partnerships, target activities ranged from integrated urban water management capacity-building programmes for city managers and water utilities to the development of integrated regionally binding instruments determining sanitation and wastewater emission targets. Most of these partnerships are also taking on a wide range of other urban management issues, including areas such as transportation, energy, health and disaster preparedness.

49. Poverty eradication is another cross-cutting issue for most water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships. Target activities in this area ranged from provision of water services for agricultural and industrial activities and income-generation to capacity-building of local political leaders and management executives to implement more sustainable, pro-poor development. Other related activities included designing guidelines on social performance of water pricing and vulnerability assessment of poor communities with a specific emphasis on vulnerabilities to natural disaster, conflict and economic dislocation.

50. Most water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships have an environmental health-related goal or objective. Provision of essential services such as drinking water and sanitation are seen as part of the effective management of human settlements, and are thus a prerequisite for a healthy environment. Factors such as urban growth create institutional, economic and environmental challenges, which affect maintenance and extension of these services.

51. Within water partnerships, specific environmental health-related activities ranged from reduction of diarrhoeal disease risk by providing water disinfectant and safe water storage containers to research projects developing evidence-based methods for rapid assessment of environment and health risks in areas of dangerous industrial activities. In the case of human settlements partnerships, specific activities included the development of indicators to monitor the effects of environmental risk factors on children's health.

C. Implementation mechanisms

52. While water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships are employing a wide range of implementation mechanisms, several common themes have emerged. For example, a strong majority (82%) have an educational component in their implementation plan. Most include information dissemination as a means to raising awareness, while others are developing curricula in collaboration with academic institutions. Specific actions include developing water education tools and teaching basic sanitation and hygiene to school children and communities, along with efforts to organize school and university students on the uses of geographic data as tool towards creating healthier communities.

53. A significant number of water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships (68%) are engaged in human resources/training, while 50 per cent are working towards institutional strengthening. Implementation mechanisms in this area included the creation of networks, centres of excellence and regional training centres to facilitate cooperation and coordination of information-gathering, data-sharing and technical services related to sustainable development.

54. Among the human settlements partnerships in particular, several networking models emerge. Some of these partnerships utilize regional centres as information clearing houses for sustainable urbanization efforts, while others organize their networks around certain recurring events such as annual summits of municipal leaders. A number of human settlements partnerships also use city-to-city cooperation as a networking model.

55. Almost half of the water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships (48%) are engaged in some form of technology transfer. In the case of water partnerships, mechanisms for technical cooperation ranged from direct interventions such as construction of a rainwater reservoir for clean drinking water in drought affected communities, to organizing information retrieval and diffusion by geographic information systems (GIS) and databases of water resources and related socio-economic information.

56. Taking advantage of developments in information and communication technologies is a common strategy among all water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships. These initiatives are disseminating scientific and technological knowledge through web-servers and web-accessible information databases. Some initiatives have created Internet servers on local technical services related to environmental services, while others are developing information networks to facilitate access to global information.

D. Progress since initiation

57. The progress of water, sanitation and human settlements partnerships follows a similar pattern to that of all registered partnerships as a whole. While some have begun implementing their partnership, others are still at the organization and coordination stage. Examples of reported implementation range from benchmarks of 800 people trained, to field tests that reduced household diarrhoea risk by as much as 85 per cent, to convening 4 seminars. Examples of reported organization and coordination activities included establishment of steering committees, launching partnership web sites and securing funding.

IV. Partnership-related activities by the Commission secretariat

A. Information management

58. At its eleventh session, the Commission on Sustainable Development asked its secretariat to make information on registered partnerships available through a database accessible to all interested parties, via the official web site and other means. To this end, a new web-accessible database has been developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The information from partnerships that had previously been posted on the web site as image files has been converted into a searchable database format. Registered partnerships are encouraged to keep their information up-to-date, so that the database may be kept current with new developments.

59. The database was launched in February 2004 and is accessible on the web site of the Division for Sustainable Development.[7] The information on partnerships is searchable using a variety of criteria including geographic scope and thematic coverage.

60. Partnerships working on sustainable development issues that have yet to register with the Commission secretariat are urged to do so. The new online registration system has been designed to facilitate accurate and timely transfer of information into the database. For those who do not have easy access to the Internet, the Word version of the form will be made available, to enable submission via fax or e-mail.

B. Initiatives aimed at strengthening partnerships[8]

61. As requested by the Commission at its eleventh session, the secretariat is organizing a Partnerships Fair, to be held from 19 to 30 April 2004 at United Nations Headquarters. The Fair will provide a venue for showcasing progress made by existing partnerships for sustainable development, launching new partnerships and networking among existing and potential partners. It will give participants an opportunity to create synergies between partnerships, to identify new partners and funding sources and to learn from each other's experiences. The Fair will have a variety of components, including presentations by partnerships, interactive dialogues, thematic discussions, information desks outside the conference rooms and a video display.

62. The Ministry for the Environment and Territory of Italy is organizing an International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development, to be held in Rome from 4 to 6 March 2004. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is cooperating with the Italian Government to provide assistance on substantive aspects of the Forum. The outcomes of the Forum will be presented at the opening session of the twelfth session of the Commission.

C. Communications and outreach

63. Various other activities have been undertaken by the Commission secretariat to increase awareness of registered partnerships, including the production of a partnerships brochure, which has been widely disseminated, and a briefing to United Nations delegates. The secretariat has also met with representatives from across the United Nations system to brief them on the process and to share experiences. Efforts have also been made to involve partnerships in the regional implementation meetings held in preparation for the twelfth session of the Commission.

V. Conclusions

64. The majority of partnerships for sustainable development that registered with the Commission secretariat were announced around the time of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. All of these initiatives have stated goals and objectives related to sustainable development that resonate with those outlined in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. By working in collaboration at all levels, sharing their skills, resources and expertise and by working to develop innovative solutions to global concerns, these initiatives have demonstrated their goal of adding concrete value to the implementation of sustainable development.

65. While most registered partnerships focus on the management of specific natural resource areas, all of the initiatives have accounted for the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development in their implementation strategies. This is highlighted in the sectoral scope analysis,[9] which indicates that all partnerships include a large number of secondary themes within their implementation design.

66. Registered partnerships vary considerably in geographic scope and duration. Geographic coverage ranges from initiatives focussing on specific regions to those mobilizing global campaigns. The projected duration of partnerships ranges from initiatives with a two-year horizon to those with an open-ended time frame.

67. The provision of predictable and sustained resources, whether based on financial resources and/or non-financial contributions, is a key prerequisite for partnership implementation. Three-quarters of the registered partnerships have reported that they have secured funding, while the remainder are awaiting confirmation from donors.

68. While some registered partnerships are fully operational, many are in the organizational phase of their development. Based on the information reported, it appears that this phase takes considerable time and resources. Frequently reported organizational activities included approaching potential partners, efforts to secure funding, defining coordination modalities, establishing a partnership web site, conducting outreach and developing implementation strategies. It is anticipated that an increasing number of registered partnerships will be reporting progress towards implementation goals in the coming reporting cycles.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I.A, draft resolution I, paras. 21-24.

[2] For full text of the Bali Guiding Principles see http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/prepcom4docs/bali_documents/annex_partnership.pdf.

[3] See http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev.

[4] Further information on these initiatives is available at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/activities_initiate.htm.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I.A, draft resolution I, para. 22 (d).

[6] The nine major groups of civil society identified in Agenda 21 are: women, youth and children, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers.

[7] The Internet address is http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm.

[8] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I.A, draft resolution I, para. 24, which called for "activities aimed at strengthening partnerships in the context of the Summit process and its follow-up and facilitating new ones, including through such initiatives as partnerships fairs and learning centres, mindful of the importance of sharing information on existing activities, particularly across the United Nations system".

[9] See sectoral coverage section in the present report, paras. 15-17.

Annex

Involvement of registered partnerships according to theme[a]

Primary theme (number of partnerships)	*Partner involvement (percentage)*				
	Government	*MG*	*United Nations*	*Intergovernmental organization*	*Other*
Agriculture (27)	93	89	60	52	44
Air pollution/atmosphere (9)	89	78	44	100	22
Biodiversity (25)	88	88	92	72	40
Biotechnology (3)	67	67	100	67	-
Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production	96	100	60	56	32
Chemicals (3)	100	100	100	100	33
Climate change (15)	93	53	60	87	53
Desertification (5)	60	80	60	40	20
Disaster management and vulnerability (10)	70	80	80	80	40
Drought (4)	100	75	50	25	75
Education (46)	78	91	65	41	57
Energy for sustainable development (37)	81	84	62	46	51
Forests (12)	83	92	92	58	67
Gender equality (2)	100	100	50	100	-
Health and sustainable development (25)	84	96	76	64	48
Human settlements (21)	67	100	76	64	24
Industrial development (3)	100	100	33	-	67
Institutional framework for sustainable development	91	95	73	64	61
Land (20)	90	95	75	55	50
Marine resources (10)	80	80	100	70	60
Means of implementation (47)	77	88	58	70	38
Mining (4)	100	100	50	75	25
Mountains (2)	100	100	100	100	50
Oceans and seas (25)	92	88	92	64	40
Poverty eradication (17)	88	88	76	65	65
Protecting and managing natural resource/base	85	96	78	74	48
Rural development (17)	94	88	47	53	59
Sanitation (10)	100	100	80	60	40
Sustainable development for Africa (33)	88	88	55	64	24
Sustainable development in a globalizing world (24)	67	84	63	50	54
Sustainable development of small island developing States (33)	91	91	88	91	61
Tourism (13)	100	100	54	70	70
Transport (6)	67	100	67	84	50
Waste management (5)	80	80	80	80	20
Water (36)	89	92	61	58	53

[a] This table shows the percentage of registered partnerships arranged by primary theme. Given that most partnerships have multiple primary themes, aggregating the total number of partnerships per theme would exceed the total number of partnerships currently registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development.